

alcohol in some form which over a period of time has the same affect as drugs. I used to be one of those people that believed that when....a...that people were not sick but that they were criminals when they were drunk. Since that time I have changed my mind. In my own community of Scottsbluff, I know from observations and contacts and experience that alcoholic anonymous has really saved many people who are highly responsible are best citizens as well as others who are not in that category. Doctors, lawyers, almost anybody you can think of. I had a man working for me who is probably the finest, at least in my experience, an electrical genius that I have ever seen. Because of the inability of being able to control his own actions and he got to the point where he couldn't hit the floor with his hat. Another man and he who were in the refrigeration business who was quite capable in his field they went to Minnesota and went through those things that are available there at a reasonable high cost because of the fact that they wanted to get cured. This bill does nothing except to help the man who wants to help himself. No one else. So the state at the present time is not rich enough to take everybody whether they want to or not and try to reform them. In my county I know of a number of people who have been to Hastings and not one but as many as sixteen times. All they do is dry them out and send them on their way. Now Mr. Anderson who is the head of the institution thinks that every man that is arrested is a criminal. The over consumption of intoxicating liquor. He contends that when they are arrested the first time, 80% of them at the time cure themselves and I don't agree with a in either instance. Now Senator Barnett went to a great deal of trouble and a great deal of effort that a lot of time had he brought to the committee an amendment which would become the bill. This would do a great many of things and I want to be reasonably brief on this. I only hope that you allow us to raise this bill so that we can discuss the thing intelligently so a...a...because today or tomorrow is the last time an attempt could be made. I have reason to believe that the liquor industry who I do not represent but who I have contacts with obviously. While they are not enthusiastic about it, they would apparently have no objection to the applying of a one or two cent tax on beer which would raise either one or two million dollars. They don't want the fund if they are authorized or put into law to be earmarked, for obvious reasons. If we do this we would like to have it put in the general fund and then reappropriated from there. Now would or we would attempt or make surveys to go to the other areas of the hospitals in order to attempt to determine how many beds they might have available for this purpose. If they want to participate in the program. Now we have a lot of difference of opinion among people who are trying to rehabilitate alcoholics. There is either not enough money or there is too little money or it is not the right way to do it. Now this bill would be putting it out of the hands of the department of institutions and put it into the health department. Where it does belong. Now lets just presume that we pass this bill and put it into effect. It has other benefits which could be accomplished for very little cost, we pass laws and say to young people that if you are arrested for the possession of or use of marijuana we put you seven days in jail and we realize that if we put them in jail that is almost as bad or worse than the habit. Now this would provide